# EPISTLE TO FRIENDS.

DEar Friends, Brethren and Sisters in the holy Union of Divine Love, who are called by Grace in Christ Jesus, the Light and Love of God, I your dear Brother in the same pure Love and Union, being called and chosen of God, to labour in his Vineyard, do send Greetings of Love unto you, and write these things unto you by Way of Remembrance, to stir up your pure Minds, that you may be encouraged to go on and press towards the Mark for the Prize of the high and precious Calling, wherunto you are called, that none of you may faint in your Minds, nor sit down by the Way, neither set up a false Rest, but with Courage and Boldness go on, following the Lamb in the Light which Way soever he goes, through Sufferings and Tryals and all Hardships, like good Souldiers of Jesus Christ, be valiant in the Spiritual Combat, until all your Enemies be made your Foot-stool, that so you may quietly sit down in Peace and Safety under the Shadow of Christ Jesus, the Light, Life and Power of God, where none can harm you, nor make

you afraid. And dear Hearts, *pure* and *holy* is the Lord, who hath called you, and dreadful is his Name, he is Juſt in all his Wayes, and loves *Truth* and *Righteouſneſs*, and nothing can ſtand before him, but Purity; no Hypocriſie, nor Deceit, nor any feigned or falſe thing can ſtand in his Preſence, nor enter into his Righteous Kingdom, but by the Fire of his fierce Wrath is to be burnt up and conſumed; *Truth is his Delight, and Holineſs his dwelling-place, without which none can ſee him, nor approach unto him; all his Wayes are pure and perfect*, and nothing can guide in his Way (which is perfect) but that which is perfect; the *Worldly Eye cannot behold, nor Worldly Wiſdom comprehend nor find out the Depths of his divine Myſtery; it is ſeal'd and hid from all the Sons and Daughters of Adam, who be in the Tranſgreſſion, Sin and Diſobedience, ſeparated from the pure Love, Life and Preſence of the living God:* But Glory and everlaſting Praiſes be given to the moſt high, he hath diſcovered and revealed that Light, and Life, and pure Truth, which hath been hid and vailed under the thick Miſts and Clouds of Darkneſs for many Ages, but now is manifeſt unto the Children and Servants of God, who fear his Name, and tremble at his Word, even the ſame Truth as ever was, which abides and continues forever, which makes free from Sin, and unites and Joyns the Hearts of all thoſe who faithful in it abide, together in one pure Love and holy Life. O my dear Friends, prize the Love and Mercies of God, which have been tendered unto you in the Light, and continue in his Love, and walk worthy of his Mercies, as lively Patterns and

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Examples of a Righteous Life, answerable to your Profession, that you may be a sweet and good Savour to the Lord, both in them that believe, and in them also that perish, resembling and representing him who hath called and loved you, holding forth unto all the same Patience and Long Suffering of God, even as the Lord loved you, when you were his Enemies, and waited in Patience and Long-suffering, to be gracious unto you, and to do you Good; so do you shew Love and Kindness to them that are without, though they be Enemies to you, and speak Evil of you, and labour to overcome you, and to draw you back again into the Mire and Pollution of the World; I say unto you, in Patience wait, and partake not with them in any Evil, but stand Witnesses for God against the Evil, & be not overcome therewith, but overcome Evil with Good; and turn not ye to them, but stand stedfast and unmoveable in the Light, and let them return to you: I know, dearly beloved, the Enemy of your Souls lies in wait to deceive you and ensnare you, and will not cease to tempt and assault you as long as he hath any Interest in you, to draw you back again into Sin and Evil; for it is his Work to oppose the Work of God, and to make War with the Lamb and the Saints, he need not make War with the Worldly Ones who live in Sin, for they are subject to him already, and led Captive by him at his Will; but his Enmity is against the Lamb and his Followers, who come to spoil him, and dispossess him, and take the Kingdom from him, and there-

fore doth he rage, and go about like a roaring Lyon, seeking whom he may devour; therefore let none think strange concerning the fiery *Tryals* and many *Tribulations* the Followers of the Lamb do pass through; but every one in particular wait upon God in the Light, which makes manifest the Deceits and subtil Workings of the Serpent, that in the Light you may behold the subtil Enemy in his approaching, and in the Power of God resist him, that so a Separation you may all know in the Root and Ground between the precious and the vile, wrought in you by the pure Power of the most high God, that you may know each Workman in their several Workings in the *Mystery*, for as Godliness is a *Mystery*, so likewise Iniquity is a *Mystery*; and as God is a pure Spirit, and works in a *Mystery* in the Light, so the Devil is a dark Spirit, and works in a *Mystery* in the Dark; and as God doth work Mankind into his Image of Righteousness, so the Devil he works Mankind who obey him, into his Image of Unrighteousness; and as these two Workmen, to wit, the Prince of Light and the Prince of Darkness have no Fellowship nor Agreement, but are contrary one to the other, even so the Followers and Servants of each of these have no Agreement, but are opposite and contrary each to other; and hence ariseth the War and the Strife between the two Seeds, the Seed of the Woman, and the Seed of the Serpent, and no Man or Woman can serve these two Masters, or be Heirs of these two Kingdoms, but every one becomes a Ser-

vant to him to whom he yields his Members Servants to obey, whether of Sin unto Death, or of Obedience unto Life; and so every man and woman is known whose Workmanship they are, by that Image which appears in them, and so are known by their Works and Fruits; the Children of God, who are born of the pure Spirit from above, are marked out, and have their Father's Name written upon them, which is *Meekness* and *Humility*, *Patience* and *Long-Suffering*, *Gentleness* and *Peace*, *Righteousness* and *true Holiness*, *Truth* and *Love*; hereby they are known, even by their Fruits of Righteousness; so also the Children of the Devil, who are born of the dark Spirit from below, are marked out, and have their Father's Name written upon them, which is Envy and Wrath, Coveteousness and Pride, Arrogancy, High-mindedness, Stubbornness and Wilfulness, Lying and Swearing, Scoffing and Scorning, Jearing, Drunkenness, and such like, and hereby they are known, even by their Fruits of Wickedness: Therefore my beloved Friends, wait in the Light of Christ Jesus, and try the inward Motions, what Spirit it is that moves, whether the pure Spirit that moves in the Light, or the unclean Spirit that moves in the dark, that so you may know a Separation in the inward Ground, between the Good and the Evil, that in the Power of the Lord ye may Joyn to and obey the Good, and separate from and resist the Evil in the first Rise and Motion, before it break forth

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into Action; for before every Action that is done amongſt men, there is firſt an Inward Motion: So in the Light of Chriſt try every Motion, from what Ground it doth ariſe, and dwell in Righteouſneſs and true Judgment, that Sin may be condemned in the Fleſh, and the Enemy reſiſted in all his Appearances, both within and without; for this you ſhall find by Experience, that when the Enemy cannot overcome you by that Power which he hath within you, but by the Power of God is reſiſted and overcome, then he will ſtir up ſome of his Inſtruments without you, in whom he bears Rule, and make them Inſtruments to tempt and enſnare you, and to draw you back again into the Sin and World of Darkneſs: But all Friends, ſtand ſtedfaſt and unmoveable in that meaſure of Light and Truth which from God is manifeſted in you, and that ſame Power which gives you Victory over the Evil within, waiting in Patience in it, will alſo give you Victory and Dominion over the Evil-doers and Sinners without you, whereby you may be able to ſay in the *Truth*, *GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN US, THEN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD:* So the Lord give you Wiſdom and true Diſcerning, to put a Difference between the Holy and Unholy, and the Almighty Preſence and Power of the higheſt accompany you and aſſiſt you, that you may therein reſiſt the Evil, and obey the Good; ſo ſhall you have Peace in acting and doing

ing the things that are Righteous and well-pleasing unto God.

Live in LOVE. } { *So with my dear Love unto all the Upright in Heart, I rest your dear Brother in the Truth,*

Alexander Parker.

*This to be read among Friends in the Truth, as in the Wisdom of God they shall see it serviceable.*

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THE END.

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